



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Heading Pictures Courtesy of Tucker Hill

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P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

August 2002

SOCIETY TO VISIT SALUBRIA AUGUST 18TH



At the May membership meeting Mr. Tom Faircloth, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Germanna Foundation talked about the early settlers of Madison County who settled in the county after their indentured servitude to Governor Spotswood at Germanna. He gave a history of their origins in Germany and the circumstances that brought them to Governor Spotswood's iron mines. He also traced the migration of many of the Germanna families to other parts of the country.

A field trip to Salubria is planned for the August 18th membership meeting. Soft drinks will be furnished by the society for refreshments after the tour. A donation of 3 dollars per person is requested, to be paid upon arrival.

To get to Salubria, take route 3 from Culpeper toward Fredericksburg. About one mile past Stevensburg turn right on Salubria Lane. For those who wish to car pool, we will assemble at the Kemper residence at 1 p.m.

The following description of Salubria is taken from the Germanna foundation's web site – www.germanna.org.

Salubria, located some seven miles east of the town of Culpeper, is thought to be the oldest brick house in Culpeper County. It was constructed in formal Georgian style at a time when Culpeper County was still close to the frontier. Although the precise date of construction is not certain, Salubria was built in the mid-1700's by the Reverend John Thompson, whose first wife was the widow of Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood.

Historic Salubria has been never modernized with either plumbing or wiring, and is rare among American houses of its age for the untouched state of its architecture. "Salubria is pure indeed," said Calder Loth, Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources, and a noted expert on Virginia houses. "The more we study it, the more it tells us about 18th century building and life." Loth further commends the 1950s repair work by noted architect and engineer Washington Reed, who at the same time was reconstructing the White House under President Harry S. Truman, that saved the old house from eventual ruin, without "invading" the "historic fabric."

JOAN CHESTON RECEIVES MADISON AWARD

The Madison County Lions Club presented the 2002 Madison Award to Joan Cheston in recognition of her many contributions to the community including her extensive service to the Society. All members of the County Board of Supervisors attended the presentation.

A selection committee composed of representatives of 13 civic and community service organizations selected her in a secret ballot. There were 10 highly qualified candidates.

The last issue of the Newsletter contained an article about Joan's many contributions to Madison County.



HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

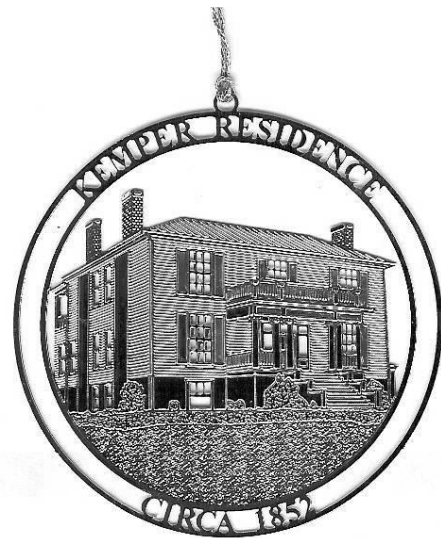
The Historic House Tour on June 1 and 2 that was sponsored by the Society and The Madison Garden Club was a great success. The Society's share of the proceeds was \$2,107.56. These funds will be used to finish the kitchen in the basement of the Kemper Residence. Thanks to every one who participated. We could not have done it without you.

WELCOME – NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members:

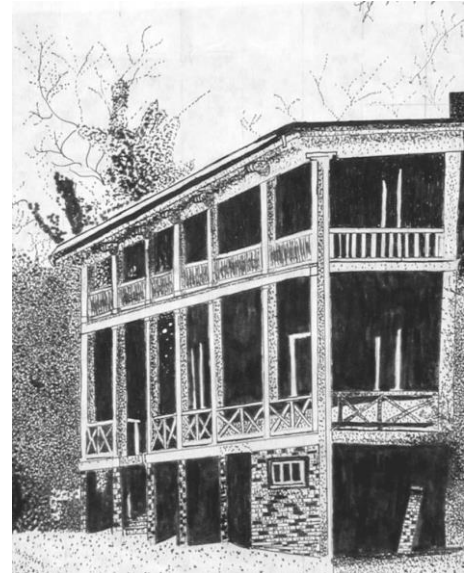
- Frank and Pat Brummett
- Gina Cheston (Joan's granddaughter)
- Jackie and James Durham
- Susan Scurlock Theiler
- Kevin T. Bruns

2003 ORNAMENT



The 2003 ornament featuring the Kemper Residence has arrived. They may be purchased at the Arcade for \$10.00 plus tax (\$10.45 total).

STUDENTS' ART FEATURED IN 2003 CALENDAR



Anne Marie Gaylord's drawing of the Hunton House is among the 13 handsome pen and ink sketches of Main Street landmarks by Madison County High School art students included in the 2003 Historical Society Calendar. Now in its second year, this popular Calendar will go on sale at the Taste of the Mountains Street Festival and will be available at several Madison

venues throughout the fall and Christmas season. The price is \$10.

Other students whose work appears in the Calendar are: Kelly Racer, Lindsay Jones, Amanda Tucker, Rebekah Piller, Sarah Beth Gaylord, Amanda Dodson, Stephanie Clements, Amy Preddy, Colie Owens, Seth Piller, Laurel Hundley, and Sarah Thornton.

Art teachers Richard Young and Danelle Nutter asked students in all classes to make sketches of Main Street landmarks from photographs by the Historical Society.

Students critiqued their own work and selected a final group for display at the Madison County Department of Social Services for their annual show. From these, Mr. Young and Tucker Hill, an Historical Society Board member, picked the final drawings.

KEMPER RESIDENCE

Tours - Students from the third grade at Waverly Yowell School toured the Kemper Residence on June 3rd. They also visited the Arcade. Genevieve McLearn, Jan Harris and Rita Cunningham conducted the tours.

ACQUISITIONS

Whirlpool Electric Range - Bob and Mary Haught
Slide Projector and Screen – Mary Anne Huste
Oriental and hooked rugs - Joan Cheston
Blankets - 2 woven at Woolen Mills - Vee Tull
Walnut Slant Top Desk 1850's - Joan Cheston
Albert Aylor Bed - Joan Cheston
Mr. Coffee - Bob Cunningham
Tea Cups and Saucers - Joan Cheston, Rita Cunningham, Genevieve McLearn
Snack Tray - Genevieve McLearn
Snack Dishes - Marvyn MacIntyre
Photograph of William J. Carpenter workforce (1935) – Nancy Carpenter Jordan

ARCADE EXHIBITS

From tea to cola: Main Street 1880s/90s to 1920s/30s. What we dressed in during these changing years.

Remembering President Hoover, our neighbor at the beginning of the Great Depression.

(Please see related article on the selection of Hoover Camp.)

Rapidan Railroad – new additions to this exhibit.

These displays will continue to September 5. The Arcade is open from 10 am to 2 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may call Jan Harris (923-4438) to make arrangements to visit the Arcade at other times.

SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT

The Richard and Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust has awarded the Historical Society a grant of \$12,000, designated for the restoration of the Kemper dependencies, the law office and the servants' quarters.

Because the grant stipulates that the grant be used by June 2003 and because restoration of the servants' quarters will require considerably greater expense, the Board has decided to apply this grant toward the restoration of the law office. We are anxious to restore the building as nearly as we can to its appearance during the period when General Kemper used it. Joan Cheston has given the Historical Society a 19th century desk for use there and gifts of early law books have been promised. When restoration is accomplished we will include the law office in tours of the property. Inclusion of the dependencies will allow us to show visitors how a nineteenth century home functioned as a complex of buildings and not just a house.

Although the architect's estimate for total restoration of the law office is \$25,000, restoration of the downstairs room can be done for less than that. However, we may not be able to restore the room to usable condition for \$12,000 and therefore request that anyone considering a tax-deductible donation at this time please make the check to the Madison County Historical Society and specify its use for restoration of the dependencies.

Scalp Wanted

The Society could use your help in several projects, such as:

1. Work with other members in locating and recording grave sites.
2. Research the 1920-24 railroad location from Wolftown to Orange.
3. Serve as a host/hostess at the Arcade or the Kemper Residence.
4. Prepare a new Madison County Historical Society pamphlet.
5. Develop a publication list and recommend methods for selling publications.
6. Taste of the Mountains (please see article in this issue)

Please contact President Rita Cunningham at 948-6542 for additional information, to volunteer, or to provide your ideas on how you might help in other ways

TEA AT THE KEMPER RESIDENCE

Plans are in high gear for the Fall Tea at the Kemper Residence. Volunteers will serve as hostesses, make tea sandwiches, scones, cookies and other treats. Attendance will be by reservation. After initial set up costs, proceeds will go toward the continuing restoration of the Residence, Governor Kemper's Law Office and the servants' quarters. Do you have surplus china teacups, luncheon size plates, teapots or teaspoons? They do not have to match. Publicity will begin in September.

CAROL NASH TO USE ARCADE

Carol Nash, Archeologist at James Madison University, will use part of the second floor of the Arcade while she is on sabbatical from JMU. She will be working on the Madison Archeology Project and will have displays and artifacts at the Arcade.



CEMETERY SURVEY

Thanks to Claude Ross for submitting cemetery information on the Turner Gravesite in the Cash-Sullivan Cemetery near Twyman Mills and to Sandy Stowe for her continuing service in locating and recording cemetery information. (Please see related article by Earl Estes.)

MEETING WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On July 9 President Rita Cunningham met with the Board of Supervisors to advise them of the Society's various activities and initiatives. We plan to do this periodically.



A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO MADISON COUNTY

By Ann Ferguson

Shortly after Herbert Hoover was elected the 31st President of the United States in November 1928, he took steps to find a mountain site near Washington, D.C. to use as a retreat. Mr. Hoover had a decade of experience at high levels in the federal government and was well aware of the pressure-cooker atmosphere that surrounded the office he would soon occupy.

To see his intentions go from wish to reality, the President-Elect gave Lawrence Richey, a trusted member of his staff, the task of finding a location that would meet certain specifications. It

must be within 100 miles of the White House, on a trout stream and at an elevation of at least 2500 feet.

Lawrence Richey knew his mission went beyond meeting technical specifications. The Hoovers had traveled in the United States and abroad and had enjoyed many superb park locations. He knew the site that the Chief and his Lady would agree to also had to have inspirational scenery and a completely natural environment

While Mr. Richey began his search for suitable areas, word of Mr. Hoover's plan spread and the usual government bureaucracy began to turn its wheels. Calvin Coolidge was still Chief Executive and would retain his presidential authority for another three months. When a Virginia congressman, joined by a congressman from Indiana, Chair of the House Public Buildings Committee, approached President Coolidge about a government-site for a Summer White House, the sitting President proposed Weather Bureau property in Bluemont, Virginia as a good choice. There also were proposals from other members of Congress requesting that sites in Pennsylvania and Maryland be considered.

While an increasing number of interested parties lined up to put forth their arguments for a particular location, Lawrence Richey was not deterred; he continued to explore mountain retreat sites he felt would come closest to meeting the wishes of his boss.

At one point during the search, newspapers reported that the Berryville Chamber of Congress let it be known that they were urging the Congress to establish a Summer White House at the Bluemont site.

Harold Allen, a Washington attorney who, in 1924, first suggested that Shenandoah National Park be created around the Skyland resort, proposed another Virginia site. Mr. Allen now raised his voice in the site selection matter and succeeded in getting lobbying underway for the selected site to be in either Skyland or at Thornton Gap.

It appears that Mr. Hoover was not disturbed by any of the background maneuvers to establish a camp at a site chosen by others. He continued

to receive interim reports from Laurence Richey on possible sites. In a letter Mrs. Hoover wrote to a friend in late January 1929, she described a trip, obviously in the Blue Ridge Mountain area, where she looked at possible campsites and mentioned being met by a Shenandoah Park official

It is that official, William F. Carson, Chairman of the Virginia State Conservation and Development Commission, who worked hand in hand with Laurence Richey and the newly-elected President to secure a campsite to meet Mr. Hoover's specifications.

William Carson was already engaged in buying land as the basis for a proposal to the federal government for development of Shenandoah National Park. He saw the establishment of a presidential hideaway as a contributing element to enhance the success of Virginia's goal to have a national park.

Mr. Carson was able to secure fishing rights along the Rapidan River and soon met with Madison County officials at which time he was given a commitment for \$7500 for construction of an access road that would also receive state funds. Diligent effort to avoid publicity about the Madison County site was not successful; on March 22, 1929, the headline in The Madison Eagle announced "Upper Rapidan Officially Chosen as Fishing Lodge for President Hoover". While this was a premature announcement and not accurate, plans were certainly underway to make it come true.

The proposal for selection of the Madison County site was in its final stages, but lacked a critical element - would the location appeal to Mr. Hoover? After all, the goal of the entire project was to give the Hoovers a place they could come to relax and feel at home as they shrugged off the strain of public life at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

One day in early April 1929 a motorcade of VIP, government-issue vehicles was seen on the road to Criglersville. When the automobiles pulled over to a cleared area, the President and Mrs. Hoover soon emerged from one vehicle and a party of presidential aides and advisors stepped out from others. Soon, everyone transferred into Model A Fords to continue the

trip along a more primitive roadway. The party then left their motorized transport and mounted horses for the final phase of the journey. The horses carried their important riders up Chapman Mountain and down to the Rapidan River.

It is easy to imagine the suspense of the group as they watched President Hoover, hoping to see some expression of a positive reaction to his surroundings. It is said that the President made no immediate comment other than a few remarks to Mrs. Hoover. He appeared to pay careful attention to what he could see and hear as he guided his horse along. He was seen pushing aside branches of trees as he looked intently at the Rapidan River, appearing to cock his head to listen to the gentle music of the river as it flowed over gravel and boulders. He looked above his head at the canopy of fragile green leaves on the trees. We can presume he visualized the change soon, with the onset of summer, when these branches would be heavy with leaves and would create a bower for a fisherman standing in this spot while watching the line he had cast into the river.

Finally, President Hoover pointed to a nearly level area between the Mill and Laurel prongs, where they join to form the Rapidan and he said: "That's where I want my camp."

In its April 12, 1929 edition, the Eagle headline announced "Hoover Visits and Accepts" -- Mr. President came to Madison County, he liked what he saw. He made many more visits to his Madison County hideaway.

Material for this article was taken from "Herbert Hoover's Hideaway", by Darwin Lambert, Shenandoah's Natural History Association, Inc. 1971

VISITING HOOVER CAMP

Tours of Hoover Camp leave from the Byrd Visitor Center in Shenandoah National Park at 9 am on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. You can obtain additional information and make a reservation by calling 540-999-3283. (This is a local call from some area exchanges.) Tours last about three hours. There are no rest rooms or water at the camp.

EAGLE REPRINTS AVAILABLE AT ARCADE

A limited number of reprints of the Madison County Eagle for August 16, 1929 (Hoover Day) are available at the Arcade for \$ 1.00 each plus tax.

WHAT'S IN A FARM GRAVEYARD

By Earl Estes

In 1994 I found out there was a graveyard on a farm between Hood and Kinderhook here in Madison County. I met Mrs. Pansy Taylor McDaniel and she led me to a pasture field next to her home. As we walked up the knoll, I noticed a raised area in the field. Upon arriving there one could see that the graveyard was a foot or more above the surrounding ground. Apparently the graveyard had been fenced for a long period of time and the surrounding field had been tilled or grazed to the point that considerable erosion had occurred

We found four fieldstone graves and two depression graves. This is what was on two small carved fieldstones:

Wm Ander	George
son was	Anderson
Born 1797	was born
Deceaed	1803 Decesd
1814 aged	1804 aged
16 years	14 monts

What is found in a farm graveyard? **Family!**

Have you tried to carve or route the first initial of your name on a fieldstone with a chisel and hammer? Try it and you will see what I mean I was amazed that I could read letters and numbers carved on a fieldstone by a family member nearly 200 years ago.



Board members and spouses celebrate Joan Chestons' retirement

Pictures by Edward K Williams

Compiled by Emily McM. Williams

The Madison County Historical Society is a non-profit organization founded and operated for the perpetuation and preservation of Madison County heritage and traditions. The mission of the Society is to record, preserve, and stimulate interest in the history of Madison County, its families, occupations and way of life.

Membership is for one year with renewals due on the anniversary date of membership. Membership and other contributions to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Types of Membership:

Patron	\$500 or more	Business	\$50
Benefactor	\$250 to \$499	Family	\$20
Partner	\$100 to \$249	Single	\$10
Friend	\$50 to \$99	Student	\$5

Membership applications are available at the Arcade and the Kemper Residence. For more information call the Society Office at 540-948-5488 and leave your name, telephone number, and address. We will send you a membership application or return your call to answer your questions. You may wish to call the Membership Chair at 540-923-4973 or e-mail him at boblove@nexet.net.



Madison County Historical Society
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